541 762
10/541762

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: G06F

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2003/041628

(22) International Filing Date:
30 December 2003 (30.12.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/439,297   10 January 2003 (10.01.2003)   US

(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **THOMSON LICENSING S.A.** [FR/FR]; 46, Quai A. Le Gallo, F-92648 Boulogne Cedex (FR).

(72) Inventor; and
(75) Inventor/Applicant *(for US only)*: **GOMILA, Cristina** [ES/US]; 25C Chestnut Court, Princeton, NJ 08540 (US).

(74) Agents: TRIPOLI, Joseph, S. et al.; Thomson Licensing Inc., 2 Independence Way, Suite 200, P. O. Box 5312, Princeton, NJ 08543-5312 (US).

(81) Designated States *(national)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
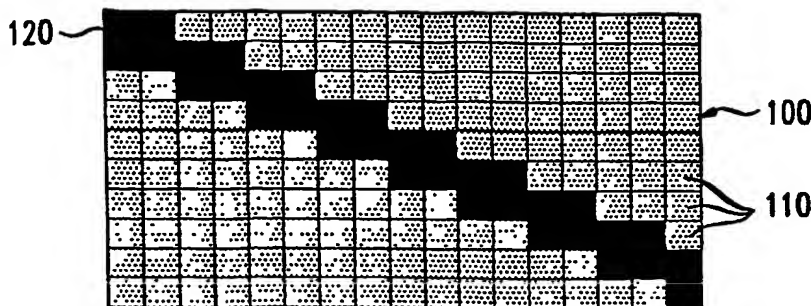
(84) Designated States *(regional)*: ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 2004/063853 A2

(54) Title: TECHNIQUE FOR DEFINING CONCEALMENT ORDER TO MINIMIZE ERROR PROPAGATION

(57) Abstract: Concealment of macroblocks (110) in a rectangular array (130) advantageously occurs by concealing successive rows of macroblocks by progressing in the direction of the larger side of the array. By performing concealment in this manner, information from the concealment of a preceding row or column propagates in a way that facilitates the prediction of contours either in the vertical, the horizontal or the diagonal direction horizontal/diagonal direction, thereby improving the quality of concealment.